Deepfake app puts your face in famous movie scenes

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via Aaron Yoo on flickr.com

A new online technique called deepfake is causing people to be worried about more fake news and other things that can mislead people. The word "deepfake" is a combination of "deep learning" (which is an important part of artificial intelligence) and "fake" (which means not real). Deepfake software allows people to replace part of a picture or video with another picture or video image. The result is a fake video. The software means you can put your face over the face of a talking president or movie star. This process will make your face speak in the voice of that president or movie star. Many people are worried the technology will be used during national elections. Deepfake videos could be used to trick voters.

A new deepfake app has gone viral in China. It lets users of the app put their face over the top of actors in scenes from movies or TV shows. The app is called Zao. It went to number one on the Chinese iOS App Store chart in just a few days after its release. A Twitter user has achieved a little fame by posting the Zao videos of himself in famous TV and movie scenes. His videos show that he really looks like the main actor in the movies The Hulk, Titanic, and in the TV fantasy drama Game of Thrones. It takes just eight seconds to do this. The Zao app is currently only available for people with a Chinese phone number. It cannot be downloaded from app stores in the USA or Europe.

Sources: mirror.co.uk / *thesun.co.uk* / *sciencealrt.com*

Writing

Technology is becoming scary. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

online / technique / fake news / combination / artificial / intelligence / technology / app / viral / actors / movies / chart / fame / fantasy / drama / eight seconds / phone

True / False

a) Deepfake is a very old technology. T / F

b) The "deep" in deepfake comes from the term "deep learning". T / F

c) Deepfake allows people to change the colour of their eyes and hair. T / F

d) Many people think deepfake will be useful in national elections. T / F

e) A new deepfake app is quickly spreading around China. T / F

f) The deepfake app is top of China's iOS App Store chart. T / F

g) A Twitter user has become famous by getting a role in Titanic 2. T / F

h) Only people with Chinese phone numbers can get the app. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

1.	**technique**	a.	concerned
2.	**deceive**	b.	for sale
3.	**replace**	c.	in
4.	**worried**	d.	lie to
5.	**during**	e.	gained
6.	**users**	f.	exchange
7.	**chart**	g.	make-believe
8.	**achieved**	h.	method
9.	**fantasy**	i.	list
10.	**available**	j.	operators

Discussion – Student A

a) What do you know about deepfake?

b) What do you think about deepfake?

c) Would you like to use the deepfake app?

d) What fake news do you know about?

e) What do you think about fake news?

f) What movie star would you like your face to replace?

g) Would you like to see your face replace your country's leader's face?

h) How can deepfake videos trick voters?

Phrase Match

1. fake news and other things that
2. artificial
3. Many people are
4. national
5. Deepfake videos could be used
6. A new deepfake app has gone
7. scenes from movies
8. It went to number one on the Chinese
9. posting the Zao videos
10. It cannot be downloaded

a. elections
b. of himself
c. viral in China
d. iOS App Store chart
e. can mislead people
f. or TV shows
g. from app stores
h. to trick voters
i. worried
j. intelligence

Discussion – Student B

a) What do you think about what you read?
b) What are your favourite apps?
c) What movies would you like to see yourself in?
d) What app would you like developers to make?
e) Are there worries about privacy with this app?
f) What do you think of Twitter?
g) Do you always believe the news you read?
h) What questions would you like to ask the app developer?

Spelling

1. A new online eiuehqcnt
2. a bnnoacmotii of...
3. apelcer part of a picture
4. This rocspse will make your face speak
5. national ncotielse
6. used to trick rovste
7. A new deepfake app has gone irval
8. in ecssen from movies
9. A Twitter user has cevahdie a little fame
10. the TV fnstyaa drama
11. only avilabela for people
12. anoeoldwdd from app stores

Role Play

Role A – Fake Smiles
You think fake smiles are the worst fake things. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their fake things aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the least harmful of these (and why): fake news, fake IDs or fake medicine.

Role B – Fake News
You think fake news is the worst fake thing. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their fake things aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the least harmful of these (and why): fake smiles, fake IDs or fake medicine.

Role C – Fake IDs
You think fake IDs are the worst fake things. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their fake things aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the least harmful of these (and why): fake news, fake smiles or fake medicine.

Role D – Medicine
You think fake medicine is the worst fake thing. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their fake things aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the least harmful of these (and why): fake news, fake IDs or fake smiles.
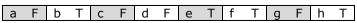
Speaking – Fake

Rank these with your partner. Put the worst fake things at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- perfume
- injury
- identity
- news
- fur
- medicine
- smile
- brand watch

Answers – Synonym Match

1. h	2. d	3. f	4. a	5. c
6. j	7. i	8. e	9. g	10. b

Answers – True False

a	F	b	T	c	F	d	F	e	T	f	T	g	F	h	T

Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.